

DOES THE FARM PAY?

Demonstrators Point Out the Differences in Results Between Good and Bad Management.

In every community there are a certain number of farmers who have found out for themselves how to make a good profit from their farms. They are now being used by county agents as practical object lessons for their less successful neighbors. Under what is known as the farm-management demonstration plan, the county agent analyzes the systems that these men have adopted, compares them with the practice on farms that pay less or not at all, and learns in this way the factors that make for successful farming in a given community. He is then in a position to say: "This is the kind of farming that pays. If you don't believe me, look around you. It's not a theory; it's a fact."

The demonstrations of this kind that the Department of Agriculture, cooperating with the State colleges of agriculture has made already, afford some striking instances of the difference in results between good and bad farm management. Recently 64 groups of farms in 19 States were studied in order to ascertain what the farmer obtained for his year's work after deducting the interest at 5 per cent on the value of his farm and other capital—in other words, to find out his labor income or wages. In each of these groups, which included altogether 4,400 farms, the conditions were reasonably similar. In each group the farmers were divided into five numerically equal classes according to their labor incomes.

The Successful Fifth

It was found that although the average labor income for all the groups was only \$387, the average for the farmers in the first class—that fifth of the farmers who did best—was \$1,421. In the second class it was \$642. The last class—the fifth of the farmers who were least successful—got nothing for wages and lost, on the average, \$517. That is to say, the interest on the amount of money represented by their farm, stock, and equipment would have been \$517 more than the farm returned them. It should be borne in mind in this connection that the labor income is merely the farmer's wages, and that the family has in addition, besides interest on investment, the use of the farmhouse and such fuel and food as the farm supplies free of money cost.

Other demonstrations have produced similar results. In almost any northern community, one-fifth of the farmers are making approximately \$1,000 a year more than the average and \$2,000 more than the least successful. This is not luck, nor is it altogether, or even chiefly, a question of the skill of the individual farmer. Further analysis will show that the successful men are following certain methods adapted to their conditions and that the unsuccessful are not. It is the business of the county agents and farm management demonstrators to ascertain what those methods are and to point them out.

How this can be done is shown by a study of a farm which, for the sake of convenience, can be called the Baldwin farm. The owner's labor income one year was minus \$45—his income was \$45 less than the interest on his farm and equipment. That year the average labor income on 193 farms in the same community was \$190 and for the 25 more successful farms \$750. The amount of capital represented by the Baldwin farm was a little more than the average and a little less than that of the best farms. In neither case, however, was the difference sufficient to account at all for the striking difference in income.

Unprofitable Cows

There were, however, other differences which did account for it. Baldwin had 51 acres in crops, as compared with an average of 68 and for the best farms of 93. He fed practically all his crops to his 11 cows and 2 horses, but the receipts in butter and milk from each of his cows averaged only \$30. On the average farm there were 6 cows, giving average re-

ceipts of \$44, and on best farms 8 cows, with average receipts from each of \$62. The other farmers with their larger crop acreage had a surplus of crops to sell. Baldwin, with a good yield as the others per acre, had practically nothing to sell, and the stock to which he fed his crops was too poor to give him profitable returns.

The important thing for Baldwin, said the demonstrators when they had ascertained these facts, was to weed out his herd, to keep a record of the production of each cow and to get rid of those which were costing him money. The next thing was if possible to rent or buy a little more land so that the size of his business would be more commensurate with its equipment. He and his horses were capable of farming as much land as his neighbors, and by not doing it he was wasting his time just as his cows were wasting his feed.

Such demonstrations, of course, are valuable only for the community in which they are made. They can not be taken to mean that it is better to keep 8 cows than 11, to sell crops than to feed them, or to cultivate 90 acres than 50. They show, however, that there are always profitable and unprofitable ways of running a farm in any community, and that if a man is losing money in return for hard work it will pay him to learn from his neighbors who are making it. It is in helping him to do that that the county agents are now finding one of their most useful functions.

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MANCHESTER DEPOT

Geo. W. Utley spent the week end in Rutland.

Miss Alice Sherwin is visiting friends in New York City and vicinity.

Mrs. O. C. Hall will entertain the Dorcas Society on Tuesday afternoon, May 16th.

Reports from Ralph Fleming at the Rutland Hospital are to the effect that he is progressing nicely.

There will be a regular meeting of Skinner W. R. C. at G. A. R. Hall on Friday at 2:30 p. m.

The house being built by E. L. Taylor on the hill north of the station is fast assuming proportions.

Mrs. Herbert Whedon died Sunday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jesse P. Mattison, after an illness of long duration.

F. H. Walker is to take off the west part of the roof of his block to have it repaired. Botsford & Rowe are doing the work.

Benj. Barber has purchased the house on McKinley avenue occupied by Jack Lake and family and will take possession soon.

Keep in mind the primary election on Tuesday next; also the Republican caucus at 8 o'clock the same evening at the Opera House.

There will be a stated Communication of Adoniram Lodge No. 42 F. & A. M. on this Thursday evening for the purpose of conferring the Entered Apprentice degree.

J. M. Bourn & Son are preparing to get into the production of high grade milk and to build up a first class Jersey dairy. They have recently purchased a dozen or so high class Jerseys.

Albert J. Hicks, for many years bookkeeper for the American Fork Co. in Wallingford, has severed his connection there and taken a position with the Factory Point National Bank. The Journal congratulates both Mr. Hicks and the bank.

Last Saturday afternoon Wm. H. Roberts and Wm. Johnston and son, each wended their way to the fair grounds to have a nice quiet tryout with their new automobiles. It was not as quiet as was anticipated for before the affair was over a slight collision occurred in which one of the wheels of Mr. Roberts' car was damaged.

From a recent copy of the Electrical News published in Toronto, Ont., Can., we take the following relative to one of Manchester's boys who is making a name for himself in the business world. Mr. Wyman is a son of Mrs. Alonzo Wyman of Manchester. "The Packard Electric Co. Limited, of Toronto, Ontario, have recently engaged as their chief engineer Mr. Frank T. Wyman, formerly chief engineer of the Pittsburgh Transformer Co. Mr. Wyman is a graduate of the University of Vermont. After graduation he taught electrical engineering in the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, for two years, and in the University of Pittsburgh for two years. He has been with the Pittsburgh Transformer Co. for the past seven years, the last four as chief engineer. The Packard-Electric Co. are to be congratulated in securing a man of Mr. Wyman's experience and ability."

Itching, bleeding, protruding or blind piles have yielded to Doan's Ointment. 50c at all stores.

SUNDERLAND

Hon. M. S. Stone, Commissioner of Education, will speak at Union Church in Sunderland on the evening of May 11th.

"Creatures of Impulse," the play given by the Y. W. C. A. of the Seminary, will be repeated at Sunderland this Friday evening, May 12th, at 8 o'clock. The play will be preceded by "A Half-Hour at the Montagues," a monologue by Miss Edna Graves. Admission to church parlors, 25 cents. Refreshments will be served. The proceeds will be divided between the Ladies' Circle and the Y. W. C. A.

Alfred H. King

Was born in Sunderland, Vermont, June 9, 1825 and died May 1, 1916, aged 90 years, 10 months, 22 days.

In the year 1850 he married Emily Marble. To this union seven children were born, five having passed to death with two sons, John and Roland surviving. There also survive a sister and several nephews and three nieces in Vermont, and seven grandchildren here.

Mr. King had been in his usual health until three weeks ago when an attack of grippe took hold of him. His advanced age and enfeebled condition combined, proved a strain too great and life flickered out even before those about him were aware, though it was known that the end must be near.

Deceased was a man of very fine personal characteristics and enjoyed the confidence and full esteem of the community where he had resided many years and where the familiar figure of the old gentleman was known to everybody, young and old alike. He was perhaps the oldest in age of the

few pioneers residing here now. He made his home, in part at least, with his son, John and family. The funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon by Rev. Burr at the home of the deceased. Interment was made in the Lawrence cemetery.—Lawrence, Neb., Locomotive, of May 5, 1916.

RUPERT

Mrs. J. M. Harwood is ill. Nathan Sykes of Schenectady, was in town recently.

Cornelius V. Roberts was a recent visitor in Albany. Miss Laura Kennedy attended the teachers' convention in Bennington last Thursday and Friday.

The condition of Miss Jennie Roberts, who is in the Albany Hospital, is improving.

County Agent, F. Clifford Shaw, was in town Monday demonstrating the treatment of oats to prevent smut. Sunday morning the pulpit in the Congregational Church was occupied by the Rev. William Rice of New York City.

Fred Harwood was quite seriously injured Sunday night when his car skidded off a steep bank on the road between Rupert and Pawlet.

Albert Lain, field secretary for the Vermont Anti-Saloon League, addressed a meeting Sunday morning in the Church of Christ in West Rupert.

Miss Frances Whedon and Mrs. E. C. Fonda attended the convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Pownal last week.

Announcement has been made by Mrs. Bosworth of Greenwich, of the engagement of her daughter, Annie, to Charles F. Sheldon, formerly of this town.

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ALBANY
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